

Nov 23, 2025 – Questions to Discuss and Consider at Home or in Small Group

"Spiritual Bluffing" – Mark 3:1-6

1. In the sermon, we talked about a poker "tell"—a subtle action that reveals the true strength of your hand regardless of your bluff. In your own life (outside of spiritual things), do you have a "tell" when you are stressed, lying, or uncomfortable? What gives you away?
2. Mark 3:1-2 describes the Pharisees' "watching" Jesus in the synagogue not to worship, but to accuse. How is it possible to be in the middle of a "holy" environment (church, small group, serving) but actually be spiritually isolated and critical in your heart?
3. We discussed how we often use religious reasons to avoid the messiness of people's needs (e.g., "I need my Sabbath rest," "This is family time"). What is your "go-to" excuse for avoiding interruptions or needs on the Lord's Day? What does this reveal about what we are actually trusting in for rest?
4. Jesus calls the man with the withered hand to "come here" (literally: *into the middle*) before He heals him. Why do you think Jesus made this a public spectacle rather than handling it quietly? What does this teach us about how God views those on the margins?
5. Jesus asks, "Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save life or to kill?" He doesn't offer a neutral option. How does this challenge our modern view of "doing nothing" or "minding our own business"? According to Jesus, what are we doing when we choose passivity?
6. Jesus looks at the religious leaders with both anger and grief. How does this combination of emotions correct our own view of sin? Do we tend to only have anger (judgment) without grief (compassion), or grief (sadness) without anger (holy zeal)?
7. The man had to expose his withered hand—his weakness and shame—to be healed. What does "stretching out your hand" look like for you this week? Is there a weakness you are hiding that needs to be exposed to Christ?
8. Jesus knew that healing this man would seal His fate, yet He did it anyway. How does knowing what Jesus willingly did for you (chose the "bad hand" of isolation as a result of our sin at the cross) change how you feel about your own standing with God?
9. We often define the Lord's Day rest as "absence of work/people." Based on this passage, how would you redefine true Biblical rest? What is one specific way you can move from "defensive isolation" to "restorative encounter" this coming Sunday?